



# The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 51, No. 4

Fourth Quarter, 2015

Whole No. 197

## A Zeppelin Cover to the Canal Zone

by Dickson Preston

As both a Canal Zone collector and a zeppelin specialist, I have seen many covers dispatched from the Canal Zone, but inbound covers carried by zeppelin are quite uncommon. A few covers to the Canal Zone have been reported for various *Graf Zeppelin* flights, but the cover shown here in Fig. 1 is the first one that I have seen flown on the *Hindenburg* as part of its transmittal to a Canal Zone address. The letter was sent to Paul Haller, the Captain of the steamer *Durazzo*, in care of the Hapag-Lloyd Agency in Cristobal. Since the surname of the sender is also Haller, we may assume that he or she was a relative of the Captain.

The letter was posted at Hamburg on August 4, 1936 and traveled to Frankfurt am Main to catch the sixth *Hindenburg*

flight to North America, which departed the next day at 8:29 pm for the three-day transatlantic flight. Arriving at Lakehurst, New Jersey at 5:25 pm on the 8th, it was flown from there by domestic airline to Miami, the take-off point for FAM 5. This complex Foreign Air Mail route included an "express" service which, according to the US Postal Bulletin dated July 8, 1936, left Miami daily at 8:00 am and, after an overnight stop at Barranquilla, reached Cristobal at 8:30 the next morning, providing service in 24½ hours. The letter



Fig. 1 Front of cover from Hamburg to Cristobal via the sixth *Hindenburg* flight to North America in 1936



Fig. 2 Reverse showing sender's address and Cristobal arrival marking

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### Upcoming CZSG Meetings

#### Regional Meetings

American Philatelic Society Ameristamp Expo, Atlanta, GA, January 29-31, 2016  
Meeting Date and Time: Saturday (Jan 30) 1 pm – 2 pm

Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, Sarasota, FL, February 5-7, 2016  
Meeting Date and Time: Saturday (Feb 6) 2 pm

WESTPEX 2016, San Francisco, CA, April 29 – May 1, 2016  
Meeting Date and Time: TBD

#### International Meetings

World Stamp Show - 2016, New York City  
Meeting Date and Time: Sunday (May 29) 11am-1pm (note revision)

#### As a Participating Society in Future National Meetings

ARIPEX 2017, Mesa, AZ, Feb 17-19, 2017  
Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition 2018, Sarasota, FL  
WESTPEX 2020, San Francisco, CA, April 24-26, 2020

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## The Canal Zone Philatelist

A.P.S. Affiliate No. 42

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**The Canal Zone Philatelist (ISSN 0746-004 X) is published quarterly for \$12.00/year, which includes membership in the CZSG, 4112 E Kilmer St., Tucson, AZ 85711.**

Periodical Postage Paid at Tucson, AZ. POSTMASTER: Send address changes and complaints of non-delivery to *The Canal Zone Philatelist*, c/o Secretary Mike Drabik, PO Box 281, Bolton, MA 01740.

Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

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Canal Zone Study Group

Commonly used abbreviations

BEP = Bureau of Engraving & Printing

Check List = CZSG Check list of Canal Zone Stamps and Postal Stationery (rev. 2015, Richard Spielberg, Ed.)

CZ Stamps = Canal Zone Stamps, by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1986

CZP = The Canal Zone Philatelist

Entwistle = The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition, by Lawson P. Entwistle, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1992; specific cancels are indicated Entw. ###.

French = Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on US Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps, by Loran C. French, Bureau Issues Association, 1979

Scott = Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps, current edition

Tatelman = Canal Zone Postage Stamps, by E.I.P. Tatelman, Canal Zone Postal Service, Mt. Hope, CZ, 1961

ABNCo = American Bank Note Company

NPM = National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution

Journal citations are *Journal Name*, Volume No., Pages, Year. Anything without a byline is written by the Editor.

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## A Zeppelin Cover to the Canal Zone

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shown was flown from Lakehurst to Miami on August 9, left Miami the morning of the 10th, and reached Cristobal the next day, where it was back-stamped "Cristobal Aug 11 6 pm."

The normal airmail route from Germany to the Canal Zone in 1936 was by fast liner to New York and then by air via Miami to Cristobal. The postage for this service was 25 Rpf (Reichspfennig) for the first 20 grams surface postage plus 40 Rpf per five grams air mail from New York to the Canal Zone. In this case the transatlantic ship voyage was replaced by the *Hindenburg* flight with the rest of the route flown in the normal way. Since the letter weighed 6 grams, as noted by the postal clerk, the postage was 25 Rpf surface plus twice the 50 Rpf per five grams *Hindenburg* postage and twice the 40 Rpf postage to the Canal Zone, for a total of 205 Rpf. The ten *Hindenburg* North America flights made from May to October 1936 provided the only commercial air mail service across the North Atlantic available before the FAM 18 clipper flights began in April 1939. This letter provides a rare glimpse into a brief period when letters could be sent on a scheduled basis entirely by air from Europe to the Canal Zone in the mid-1930s.

References:

Duggan, John and Graue, James W. *Commercial Zeppelin Flights to South America*, Appendix B, zeppelin flight tables

Schwarzer, Reinhold. *Die Luftpost Gebühren für deutsche Briefsendungen nach dem Ausland* (1926-1945)

Wawrukiewicz, Anthony, et al.

Website <http://www.uspostalbulletins.com/>

## Newly Discovered Gutter Snipe Variety Reported on 8c Golden Anniversary Air Mail Stamps (Scott C37)

by Mike Drabik

To add to the list of 23 known gutter snipes on Canal Zone stamps (See CZP 48(1):12 (2012); CZP 48(3):27 (2012); and CZP 49(1):5 (2013)) are the newly discovered pair of gutter snipes in the block of 8c Golden Anniversary Air Mail Stamps (Scott C37) shown below in Fig. 1. Printed on the Giori press, this block of four stamps from the lower right corner of a LL pane has the gutter positioned to the right of the two stamps from position 45 and 50 in the pane.

These newly discovered gutter snipes will be added to the CZSG Checklist as C37.1 "Improperly cut gutter: perforation on outside of gutter – gutter snipe."



Fig. 1  
C37 Gutter  
snipes in  
block of four



# The 1917 Canal Zone and 1918 Panama 12c ABNCo Stamps by David Zemer

The 100th anniversary of the 1917 Canal Zone and 1918 Panama 12c, 15c, and 24c stamps is nearly here but outside of the narrative in *Canal Zone Stamps* little has been published on their design and manufacture. This article rectifies this gap in our knowledge and uses the newly discovered correspondence between the American Bank Note Company and Panama as well as pre- and post-production materials to illustrate their design and production followed by several examples of these stamps on cover.

In 1916 all three denominations were ordered from Panama by the Canal Zone. Panama in turn forwarded this order to the ABNCo. These stamps were very popular with collectors, which probably induced Panama to order three identical stamps *sans* the Canal Zone overprint for itself in 1918. The chronology for all six stamps is outlined in this article but only the design materials and examples for the two 12c stamps are highlighted. The design materials for the 15c and 24c stamps will be featured in a future article.

After the research on this series is published, we hope to make available to the public the complete ABNCo files relating to the three stamps printed for the Canal Zone as well as those printed for Panama. The correspondence dates are key for any researcher who wishes to delve further into this subject and are therefore printed in bold type.

## The Canal Zone 12c Stamp Order F5082 From order to manufacture: 1916-1917

**January 16, 1916.** Mr. E.C. Brooks from the ABNCo wrote to his management from the Hotel Tivoli in Ancon. He apologized for being late in reporting because he had been stuck in quarantine for two days after arriving from Callao, Peru. He had met with Mr. Juan Ehrman, the ABNCo agent in Panama, and among other business Mr. Ehrman told him that Panama had just received a loan and was *quite flush with money*; therefore he considered *this a propitious time for securing some orders*. Mr. Ehrman hoped one of these new orders would be for 12c, 15c, and 24c postage stamps.

**September 30, 1916.** The President of Panama issued Decree No. 164, *Decreto Numero 164 de 1916*, published in *Gaceta Oficial*, authorizing these three stamps. The same day Mr. Ehrman wrote to the ABNCo with a copy of Order No. 98 signed by Juan B. Sosa, the *Secretaria de Gobierno y Justicia*, for stamps of the Republic of Panama to be used in the Canal Zone post offices. His letter reached the ABNCo on October 14. The order for the 12c stamp, translated into English, was for:

*500,000 stamps, color light violet, of the denomination of B/0.12; the vignette of which represents the steamer "PANAMA" crossing Culebra Cut, near Emperador, on its voyage from South to North made on August 11, 1914; with the inscription "REPUBLIC DE PANAMA - CORREOS - in the upper part; "EL VAPOR PANAMA CRUZANDO EL CANAL - VISTA TOMADA DEL NORTE EN EL CORTE DE CULEBRA Agosto 11 de 1914 doce centesimos de balboa" in letters and figures, in the lower part.*

*All these stamps should be surcharged with the words "CANAL ZONE."*

In a separate letter he enclosed another order for 2000

additional stamps of each denomination to be sent to Panama in a separate package. These stamps were intended to be forwarded to the International Office of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) for distribution among its members.

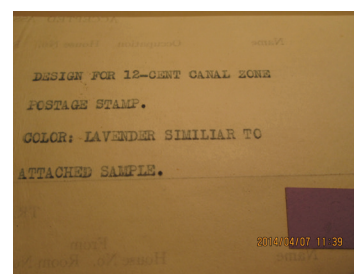
Mr. Ehrman asked the ABNCo to hasten this order as the stamps were to be placed in circulation on January 1, 1917.

This letter is a typical example of how the ABNCo kept track of orders by order date and the F(Foreign) Order number. On the large majority of correspondence for this series of Canal Zone stamps the ABNCo wrote the order number and the date that the order was subsequently accepted, "F5082 10/24/1916," in manuscript.

**October 2, 1916.** Mr. Ehrman confirmed the order in a letter received by ABNCo on October 14. At the end of the letter Ehrman wrote that the photographs for the vignettes and samples of colors for the frames were enclosed. (See Fig. 1a, 1b)



1a



1b

**Figs. 1a Photograph for 12c stamp vignette – SS Panama steaming south through Culebra Cut August 11, 1914; 1b Frame color sample attached to back of SS Panama photograph**

The ABNCo added the following in pencil at the bottom of the page:

*Charge \$350 for each engraving, printing at \$0.65/ thousand stamps, surcharging at \$5 per 1000 impressions. Total costs*

Engraving	\$ 1050.00
Printing	978.90
Surcharge	75.30
TOTAL	\$ 2104.20

**October 9, 1916.** Panama confirmed the order in a letter that arrived at the ABNCo on October 17 and specified that the Consul General of Panama would pay the bill.

In preparation for the expected order the ABNCo first reduced the size of this photograph to that of the vignette and then cut it to the necessary shape. (See Fig. 2a, 2b)



2a



2b

**Figs. 2a Photograph of SS Panama reduced to stamp size; 2b Photograph of SS Panama reduced to stamp size cut to shape of vignette**

*continued on page 40*



# The 1917 Canal Zone and 1918 Panama

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FOREIGN SALES DEPARTMENT 126 5082

Date October 17, 1916. 10/24/16

AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

Please furnish República de Panamá

Engrave special stamp vignettes for postage stamps, as per photographs now in the Modeling Room for three denominations of stamps, as follows:-

12 Doce Centésimos de Balboa - vignette entitled "EL VAPOR PANAMA CRUZANDO EL CANAL - VISTA TOMADA DEL NORTE EN EL CORTE DE CULEBRA AGOSTO 11 DE 1914"

15 Quince Centésimos de Balboa - vignette entitled "EL VAPOR PANAMA CRUZANDO EL CANAL - VISTA TOMADA DEL SUR EN EL CORTE DE CULEBRA AGOSTO 11 DE 1914"

24 Veinticuatro Centésimos de Balboa - vignette entitled "EL VAPOR CRISTOBAL EN LA EXCLUSA DE GATUN EL 11 DE MARZO DE 1915"

NOTE:- Size, style and design are to be in accordance with the models that are now being prepared. Engravings are to be started at once so as to save time, as these stamps are wanted in a great rush. Mr. Major has promised to finish the engravings and give us a plate of each denomination in from 4 to 5 weeks. This means vignette and border plate for each.

To be charged in printing order to come.

Shipping Instructions:-

MANAGER OF FOREIGN SALES

**Fig. 3 Order to engrave special stamp vignettes**

**October 17, 1916.** The ABNCo Foreign Sales Department filled out an internal order for these stamps. (Fig. 3)

Due to the need for expediency the engraving department was given the go-ahead to begin work on the engraving and plates without waiting for approval of the design by Panama. A color sample, R2 purple, was chosen to match the frame color requested by the Canal Zone as shown in Fig. 4.

**October 21, 1916.** The Manager of the Foreign Department confirmed to Panama that they had received the official order and were rushing it so that the stamps would arrive before January 1<sup>st</sup>. He also informed Ehrman that 502,000 stamps of each denomination would be printed and the price would be \$2,104.20.

**October 24, 1916.** The essay was approved by the ABNCo and a photograph was taken of the stamp. (Figs. 5, 6)



**Fig. 4**  
ABNCo color sample of R2 purple  
to match Canal Zone request



**Fig. 5 Handcolored essays for 12c, 15c, 24c stamps approved on October 24, 1916**



**Fig. 6**  
Photograph of 12c essay

The Manager of Foreign Sales placed an internal order (Fig. 7) to engrave the borders and transfer the impressions.

Besides being written in manuscript, this date was rubber-stamped on the selvage of some of the ABNCo specimen stamps. Previous to acquiring this correspondence one hypothesis was that these dates were the dates the stamps were printed. [1] We now know that October 24, 1916 is the

FOREIGN SALES DEPARTMENT 126

Date Oct., 24, 1916 F5082

AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.

Please furnish República de Panamá

Vignettes being engraved on Order 5082.

Engrave border dies for 12, 15 and 24 Centésimos de Balboa as per models herewith.

Transfer 1 - 100 on, vignette plate Rotary, 12 Centésimos de Balboa

1 - 100 on, " " " 15 " "

1 - 100 on, " " " 24 " "

1 - 100 on, border " " 12 " "

1 - 100 on, " " " 15 " "

1 - 100 on, " " " 24 " "

Steel print 5020 impressions 100 on, 12 Centésimos de Balboa Stamps, vignette in black.  
Border in light violet.

5020 impressions 100 on, 15 Centésimos de Balboa Stamps, vignette in black:  
Border in light blue.

5020 impressions 100 on, 24 Centésimos de Balboa Stamps, vignette in black.  
Border in light brown.

Paper Stamp.

Type print (Surcharge) "Canal Zone" across the face of all these stamps.

Gun and perforate.

Wax tissues 1 sheet to 1 sheet of stamps. See that wax tissues are larger than the sheets of stamps 100 on. trifle

Put up in packages of 100 sheets of stamps in heavy white paraffine paper, and wrap each 5 packages in waterproof paper.

Engraving - \$ 1050.  
Printing at 65 cts - 970.00  
Surcharging - \$5 M shts - 76.30  
\$ 2104.20

Shipping Instructions:- **Note:** 2000 of each denomination of the above stamps are to be packed separately and sent to the Secretaría de Gobierno y Justicia; the balance to be shipped through the Panama Consul in the usual way.

MANAGER OF FOREIGN SALES

**Fig. 7 ABNCo Foreign Order for 12c, 15c, 24c stamps October 24, 1916**





**Fig. 8**  
12c Die proof approved on  
November 14, 1916



**Fig. 9** 12c Frame plate proof approved on November 21, 1916

date that the ABNCo confirmed the print order and entered it into their system.

True to their promise to rush this order into production, the final die proof was finished and approved on November 14 and the frame plate proof approved on November 21. (See Figs. 8, 9)

A single-color, brown, die proof of the 12c stamp on hard paper, shown in Fig. 10, has surfaced, provenance unknown, but could have been a test to see how a single color pictorial stamp would look.

The frame plate proofs in issued colors came from Lot 544 in the 1990 ABNCo archive sale. The plate proofs were bought by several dealers, cut into pieces, and sold to collectors. So far as known no copy of the complete plate proof was made before it was cut up. The archive sale did not contain a similar plate proof for the vignettes and none is believed to have survived.

Among the sheets in Lot 545 of the ABNCo archive sale there were "three imperforate plate proof sheets of 100 stamps in issued colors on thin wove paper, some archive notes affixed to reverse, usual tears, creases or splits affecting some sheet



**Fig. 10**  
12c Engraved single color trial  
proof, provenance unknown



**Fig. 11**  
Plate proof multiple  
in issued colors



**Fig. 12**  
Large die proof in  
issued colors

positions, 12c with some thinning on reverse," which were divided into smaller lots and resold to collectors. (See Fig. 11) No copy of these plate proofs was made.

The Helme collection contained a large 12c die proof in issued colors. As it predates the ABNCo archive sale and has the die number C-1220 under the stamp we know that it was a production die proof and struck after the final die was approved. (See Fig. 12)

As previously reported in the *CZP* most of the Canal Zone specimen stamps were bought by a group of collectors. Full sheet color photocopies were made, and a sheet description and stamp position number written on the back in pencil. They were then divided up among the participants. An example of these stamps with the top selvage and Foreign Order number both engraved and hand-stamped in red is shown in Fig. 13.

As noted in *Canal Zone Stamps*, Executive Secretary McIlvaine wrote to Narciso Garay, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Panama, on November 27, 1916, pointing out that the official name of the cut had been changed from Culebra Cut to Gaillard Cut, and he requested that the inscriptions on the 12c and 15c stamps be changed accordingly.

**December 5, 1916.** Ehrman sent a coded cable shown in Fig. 14 to ABNCo asking to change the inscriptions.

ABNCo immediately cabled back the coded message shown in Fig. 15 that, referring to the telegram of Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, it was too late to make change.

**December 6, 1916.** ABNCo wrote to Ehrman that although they would like to help Panama, it was too late to make a change and the ABNCo should be held blameless as it was not their fault.

**December 8, 1916.** Mr. Garay notified Mr. McIlvaine that after correspondence with the ABNCo, Panama had been advised that it was impossible to make any changes in the inscriptions at that stage in the production.

**December 22, 1916.** ABNCo wrote to Panama that they were shipping 1,000,000 stamps,

500,000 12c                      250,000 15c                      250,000 24c  
on the Steamer *Metapan* on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.



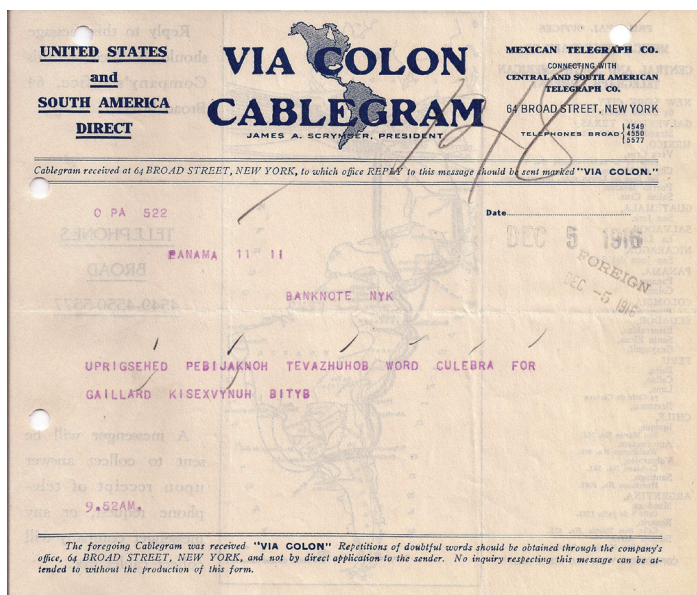
**Fig. 13** Canal Zone specimen multiple showing inscription and handstamped F5082; inscription should be Gaillard Cut not Culebra Cut

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# The 1917 Canal Zone and 1918 Panama

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**Fig. 14** Coded cable from ABNCo agent in Panama requesting name change from "Culebra" to "Gaillard" Cut

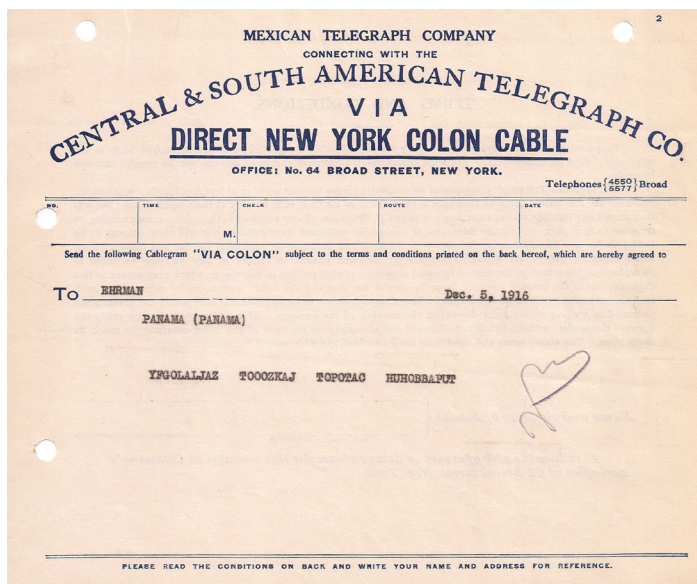
**December 30, 1916.** ABNCo wrote to Panama that they were sending the remainder of stamps, 250,000 each of the 15c and 24c, on the Steamer *Pastores* that day and that they were sending 200 stamps of each denomination by parcel post to the *Secretaria de Gobierno y Justicia*.

The latter order was for the additional stamps for the UPU and a significant reduction from 2000 of each denomination previously ordered. No documentation has been found clarifying this change. To date no 12c, 15c, or 24c specimens have been recorded from the archives of the countries that should have originally received these UPU specimens.

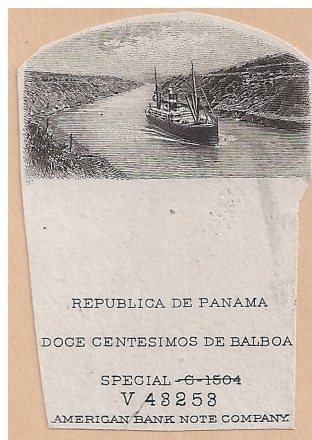
According to *CZ Stamps*, Panama delivered the complete order of 1,500,000 stamps to the CZ on January 17, 1917.

## The 12c stamp and design materials after delivery

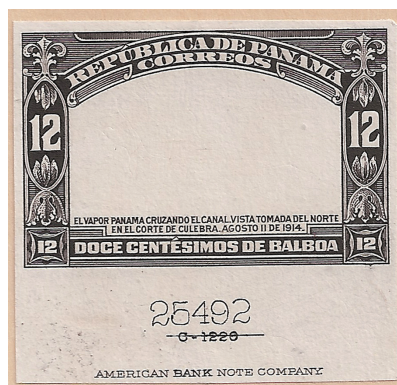
In 1924 the ABNCo renumbered all of its old dies. A



**Fig. 15** Coded cable from ABNCo informing agent in Panama that it was too late to make name change



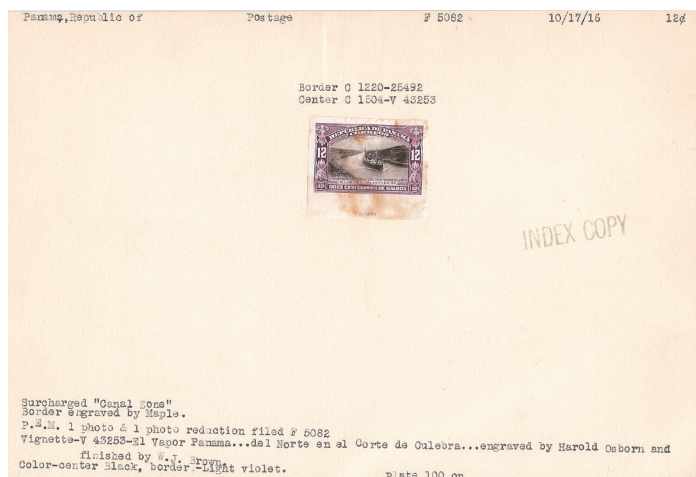
**Fig. 16**  
ca. 1924 - ABNCo  
renumbered vignette die



**Fig. 17**  
ca. 1924 - ABNCo  
renumbered frame die

variety of die proofs showing this change have appeared on the secondary market after the 1990 ABNCo archive sale. The vignette die number was changed from C-1504 to V 43253. The frame die number was changed from C-1220 to 25492. (See Figs. 16, 17)

Sometime after 1924 the ABNCo created a set of index cards that had a summary of design and printing data. These cards contain valuable information but are often incomplete or incorrect, so users should check any figures with a second source if possible. Because of the unique situation of the Canal Zone and Panama often sharing the same or similar stamp, some information on the card can be confusing. The index card for the 12c stamp (Fig. 18) provides the Foreign Order number F 5082 which is that for the Canal Zone order but does not mention that in 1918 there was a Panama order F5634. It also uses the date 10/17/16 as the order date whereas all of the correspondence uses 10/25/16.



**Fig. 18** Index card for 12c stamp



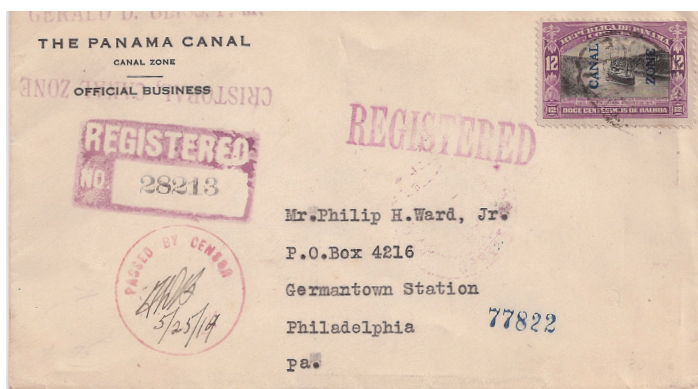


Fig. 19a 12c Stamp - 10c registry fee + 2c letter



Fig. 19b 12c + 2c Stamp - 2 ounce rate.  
(Courtesy Richard Spielberg)

In 1933 the plates were destroyed. Destruction plate proofs with the frame in green and the vignette in black, all on thin card, were sold in Lot 546 at the ABNCo archive sale.

**Lot 546 1918, 12c-24c Canal Scenes, plate proofs (214P-216P)**, set of three frame and vignette plate proof sheets of 100 stamps on thin card, in green-apparently from a printing made in 1933 when the printing plates were destroyed, notations to this effect in lower margin, usual creasing or tears affecting some stamp impressions, most fine.

Their location is unknown today.

The first mention of these stamps found in the US philatelic press was in *Mekeel's* [2] on February 10, 1917. Gerald Bliss, the Canal Zone postmaster at Gatun, and Emil J. Rall had sent *Mekeel's* a newspaper clipping stating that the stamps were expected to be issued Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, somewhat earlier than expected, and as they went to press *Mekeel's* had just received "specimens of these three beautiful stamps."



Fig. 19c 12c + 2c Stamp + 1c envelope - uprated to pay 15c to Germany (ex-Gibbs)



Fig. 19d 12c + 1c stamp + 2c envelope - uprated to pay 15c to Denmark (ex-Gibbs)

The earliest known usage of the 12c stamp according to the Canal Zone Study Group is January 23, 1917. [3]

In 1937, 185,086 copies of the Canal Zone 12c stamp, Scott No. 49, were burned; 314,914 had been issued.

### Canal Zone 12c stamps on cover

Covers bearing the Canal Zone 12c stamp are not particularly difficult to find although the condition is often less than ideal. Examples are shown in Figs. 19a, b, c, d, e. Because 12c paid the 2c rate for internal first class mail plus the 10c registry fee, and quite probably because it was such an attractive stamp, an average of 50,000 were sold each year until they were recalled in 1924. The CZSG has started a census of covers bearing each of these three denominations and about 30 of the 12c have been recorded so far. If you wish to contribute please send a scan of 300 dpi of both sides of any covers that you have to me. Eventually we hope to post a spreadsheet of our findings on our website.

We cannot offer a breakdown between those used to deliver mail and the unused copies sold to collectors but judging by how easily mint stamps are found today a large number were never postally used.

### The Panama 12c Stamp Order F5634

**May 20, 1918.** The Department of Post and Telegraphs sent Juan Ehrman, the agent of the ABNCo in Panama, a letter stating that they would order 1,000,000 1c Balboa, and 1,000,000 Cordoba stamps as well as 50,000 each of the 12c, 15c, and 24c stamps, all without the *Canal Zone* overprint, and that the *Secretario de Hacienda* would confirm the order.



Fig. 19e 12c + 1c Stamp + 2c envelope - uprated to pay 15c to Austria (Courtesy Tom Brougham)

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## The 1917 Canal Zone and 1918 Panama

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**May 21, 1918.** The *Secretario de Hacienda* confirmed the order and Ehrman sent the original orders to the ABNCo. (See Fig. 20)

The ABNCo assigned the 1c, 12c, 15c, and 24c stamps Foreign Order number 5634 and the 2c stamp Foreign Order number 5635. The order for the 1c Balboa stamp was the last for this portrait and was on a paper that was different in color from the previous 1c Balboa stamps. Because of this color differentiation one is able to link it to the stamp with the 1921 Canal Zone overprint made at the Mt. Hope printing plant in the Canal Zone, CZSG catalog number 46.B, and Panama invert, Scott 197a.

**July 31, 1918.** The invoice for this order shown in Fig. 21 was sent to the Panama Consul in New York City and the stamps were shipped on the SS *Almirante*. The cost to Panama for 50,000 12c stamps was \$35.

**August 20, 1918.** The ABNCo wrote to Panama that they had been paid \$1551.56 for orders F5634 and F5635 on August 16, which settled the account.

**August 23, 1918.** Panama issued Decree No. 135 of 1918, *Decreto Numero 135 de 1918*, in *Gaceta Oficial*. It allowed the use of the 12c, 15c, and 24c stamps in Panama.

The legendary stamp dealer Kisimir Bileski bought Lot 569 at the ABNCo archive sale. It contained approximately 300 full and partial specimen sheets. Among these were three full sheets of the Panama 12c, 15c, and 24c stamps. Mr. Bileski sold country specimen stamps in lots of one stamp from each printing. (See Fig. 22)

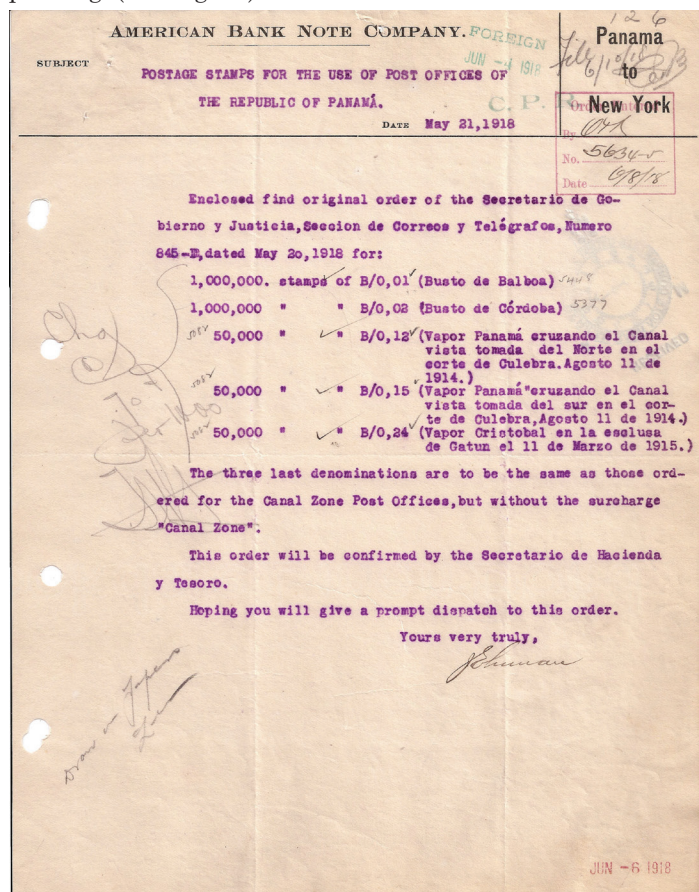


Fig. 20 May 21, 1918 – order from ABNCo agent in Panama for 1c, 2c, 12c, 15c, and 24c stamps

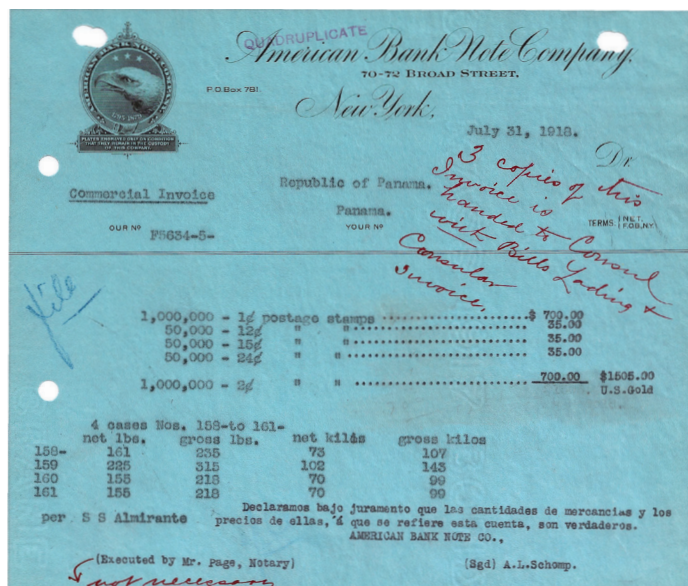


Fig. 21 July 31, 1918 – invoice from ABNCo to Panama for 1c, 2c, 12c, 15c, and 24c stamps

The Panama lots were priced at \$1000 each and along with the stamps came a list of all of the stamps and the Foreign Order numbers. In this list these three stamps were identified as order 5634, which was the handstamped number in red on the selvage. One large block of the 12c with top selvage (Fig. 23) is recorded and it confirms that this stamp used the same plate as the previous 1916 printing of the Canal Zone, stamp order F-5082.



Fig. 22  
12c Panama  
specimen stamp



Fig. 23 12c Large Panama multiple showing same selvage as Canal Zone 12c stamp





**Fig. 24**  
Used 12c Panama  
stamp cancelled Feb.  
11, 1926

Bileski died in 2005 and the remainders of this lot were believed to have been sold to another dealer. Their whereabouts today are unknown.

Panama did not need a 12c stamp in 1918. The internal letter rate was 2c, the external letter rate 5c, the registry fee 5c, and the A.R. rate 2 1/2c so there was no easy combination of stamps and fees that worked together with the 12c stamp but it could have been used for heavy letters or packages. Mint copies are easy to find but used copies are scarce and only one used copy with a clear date, Feb. 11, 1926, has been recorded. This is shown in Fig. 24.

In 1929 Panama raised its registry rate from 5c to 10c justifying the use of this stamp on internal letters but only one commercial cover, shown in Fig. 25, has been recorded.

The author would appreciate any information on the location of the remainder stamps of Panama from Lot 569 previously owned by Bileski. Scans of any of these 12c stamps with a clear date and covers with this stamp would also be appreciated.

## References

- [1] Crumpacker, James W., *American Banknote Company Canal Zone "Specimens," CZP 31(2):10* (1995)
- [2] *Mekeel's* February 10, 1917, p. 54

- [3] *Earliest Known Use by CZSG catalog number, On-line Index, CanalZoneStudyGroup.org.*



**Fig. 25a** Only recorded commercial usage of 12c Panama stamp on cover (ex-Helme)



**Fig. 25b** Reverse side of cover in Fig. 25a

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1. Publication Title: THE CANAL ZONE PHILATELIST

2. Publication Number: 0 7 4 6 - 0 0 4 X

3. Filing Date: 26 September 2015

4. Issue Frequency: QUARTERLY

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: FOUR (4)

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$12.00 USD

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): 4112 EAST KILMER STREET, TUCSON (PIMA), AZ 85711

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): CANAL ZONE STUDY GROUP, P.O. BOX 281, BOLTON MA 01740

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank): CANAL ZONE STUDY GROUP, P.O. BOX 281, BOLTON MA 01740

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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
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8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): CANAL ZONE STUDY GROUP, P.O. BOX 281, BOLTON MA 01740

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## Thank You

The CZSG expresses its appreciation to Peter Copeskey for his service handling the mailing of the CZP.



## Study Group News

### President's Report

David Zemer

sosahill@hotmail.com

In 2015 we continued to increase our participation at major stamp shows and on October 7th we met at the prestigious Collectors Clubhouse located in a NY City brownstone house—possibly the nicest clubhouse owned by a stamp club in the world. I have been a Collectors Club member for close to two decades but this was the first opportunity that I had to visit the building. It is undergoing a complete renovation and should be ready to show off by the time NY2016 takes place. The clubhouse will be open for visitors during NY2016 and if you are in New York for the Show be sure to drop by and have a look around as I think that you will be as impressed as I was with the building, the exceptional philatelic library, and the friendly staff and members. A special thanks to Elliot Coleman who did an excellent job in coordinating the meeting.

Besides NY2016 we have a busy agenda planned for 2016. At the end of January we will be at Ameristamp in Atlanta with our own table, which will serve as a meeting place for present and potential members alike. In February we will share a table with the US Possessions Society during the Sarasota National Stamp Exposition, followed by our annual west coast meeting at Westpex in April. We encourage CZSG members to coordinate having a CZSG table and regional meeting at a major show in their geographical area. We will try to have a member of the CZSG Board attend to help with the meeting.

Volunteers to help staff our tables at shows are always welcome. Please contact me or Dick Bates, your CZP Editor, if you could help out for even a few hours.

### Secretary's Report

Mike Drabik

P.O. Box 281

Bolton MA 01740-0281

czsgsecretary@gmail.com

Greetings to all Canal Zone Study Group members. I hope that 2015 has been a wonderful year for everyone and that 2016 will be even better. Our CZSG bylaws require that we must have an election of CZSG Officers and Directors in the coming year so please contact me immediately if you wish to add your name to the ballot that will be part of the 2016 membership dues request I will send out in the first quarter of 2016. Speaking of annual membership dues, it would be very helpful if everyone would respond and pay their membership dues as soon as the dues request is received. Dues may be paid using PayPal; you may send your dues payment with an extra \$1.00 to cover PayPal fees to CZSGsecretary@gmail.com.

My Secretary's report for the fourth quarter of 2015 is as follows:

As of December 1, 2015 the Canal Zone Study Group has 525 members who have paid their 2015 dues.

Please join me in welcoming our newest CZSG members:

Matthew Healey, CZSG #2770  
Peter Hatjygeorge, CZSG #2771  
George H. George, CZSG #2772  
Paul Huber, CZSG #2773

Miklos Pinther, CZSG #2774  
Martin M. Cassity, Jr., CZSG #2775  
Clark Frazier, CZSG #2776  
Richard Couture, CZSG #2777

We have been notified of changes to the addresses for the following CZSG members:

Frank Bachenheimer, CZSG #2667  
Victor B. Bailey, CZSG #246  
Richard M. Bendix, Jr., CZSG #2754

Douglas L. Brunell, CZSG #230  
Vernon W. Mayer, Jr., CZSG #2329

Resigned member:

Norman M. Currier, CZSG #1904.

Unfortunately I have also had to remove 15 CZSG members for non-payment of their 2015 annual membership dues after unanswered responses to multiple attempts to contact them regarding this matter.

Condolences to the families of the following deceased members:

Harry P. Heislein, Jr., CZSG #1582  
Thomas G. Roseme, CZSG #1805  
C. Adrian Shoemaker, CZSG #2118

Everett R. Sparks, CZSG #2422  
Paul D. Sterling Sr., CZSG #2626

Finally, I'd like to recognize the 101 Contributing and 75 Sustaining CZSG members who provided our organization with additional financial support in 2015. The CZSG organization and I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to these members who made the decision to support and to invest in the long-term future of our organization.

#### Contributing CZSG members (dues \$24 or more):

Dr. Stevan Adler  
E. David Allen  
Ted Bailey  
Robert Baldwin  
Rufus Barnes  
Joseph Berlin  
Torsten Beyer  
David Boich  
David Borghi  
Robert Bridges  
Roger Brody  
Douglas Brunell  
James Byrne  
George Campbell  
Ken Carstens  
Robert Cassibry  
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John Chase  
Elliot Coleman  
Charles Connell  
Ray Coughlin  
Jerry Craig  
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Ronald Truffa  
Gaylord Warren  
Lawrence Weinstock  
Thomas Williams  
Dr. Harry Wyre, Jr.  
George Young  
Allen Young  
Richard Yudin  
Steve Zarko  
John Zawaski, Jr.

#### 2014 Sustaining Contributing CZSG members (dues \$35 or more):

Paul Ammons  
Dr. Ernesto Arosemena  
Robert Banas  
Richard Bates, Jr.  
John Beall  
E. Paul Bender  
Stanley Broffman  
Thomas Brougham  
Eugene Bunnell  
Craig Chartrand  
Joseph Chervenyak  
Anthony Chipaloski  
Christopher Christensen  
Jack Cooper  
James Crumpacker  
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Armand Johanson, Jr.  
Shelton Johnson  
John Kaminski  
William Keepers  
Thomas Kurtz  
Michael Leszcz  
Nicholas Liakopoulos  
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Dr. Gustin Welch  
David Zemer



# Special Auction Report

## The Donald A. Kuske Auction

### by Jim Crumpacker

It is rare to have two "name" sales following one upon the other in the same year, but we accomplished this in 2015 with the Donald A. Kuske auction in September, close upon the Irwin Gibbs offering in May.

I'm especially glad to report on the Kuske Sale for the simple reason that the rest of the auctions this quarter produced little of great interest, so this report replaces the regular *CZP* quarterly auction column.

There were few blockbusters from Kuske. The priciest item, a used Scott No. 23g (inverted center and overprint reading up) with a crease and a tiny paper cut, sold for \$7670. Only one of the other 290 lots went for more than \$3200.

Rather few lots had expertization of any kind. Many of the postal stationery submissions went for less than expected prices, undoubtedly reflecting bidders' expenditures at the Gibbs Sale.

The prices shown below include hammer plus the 18% Kelleher commission; the 2015 *Scott* value is shown in parentheses.

- 1a CANAL ZONE inverted, traces of OG, H, F \$826 (\$1000)
- 2 on cover, F single on VF cover 6/27/04 Ancon cds to Cristobal w/ Crist. cds \$153 (\$225)
- 9c inverted overprint, used, a perf. repair, o/w F \$2950 (\$6000)
- 10b L of CANAL sideways, TG, H, F in rt. Margin bl. of 12 w/ 11 normals and part imprint \$1298 (\$2549)
- 12 vars., PANAAM at rt and spaced A L of CANAL, pos. 41 in pair w/ normal, OG, HR, VG \$798 (\$950+)
- 26 var, CZSG 26.1 imperforate bottom margin, pair with the unique imprint (a hole in the imprint) o/w OG, H, VF \$1888 (\$n/a)
- 46a overprint reading down, TG, H, XF \$142 (\$375)
- 55f CANAL double, OG, HR, a light gum bend o/w VF in pair w/ normal, ZONE on rt. margin \$1003 (\$2022)
- 56a double overprint, OG, H, F \$295 (\$600)
- 71a CANAL only and 71d ZONE CANAL, TG, H, VF in vert pair w/ top margin \$1180 (\$1750)
- 84b, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, VF \$201 (\$475)
- 88 var. CZSG 88.1 wrong font CANAL, TG, H, F \$708 (\$n/a)
- C25a horiz. pair, imperf. vertically OG NH, F, \$826 (\$1250)
- CO14a inverted overprint, used w/ usual roller cancel, a light bend o/w F+ to VF \$1514 (\$2500)
- J20c rose red, double overprint, OG, H, F, w/top margin \$354 (\$450)
- U5 mint entire, a toned spot o/w VF \$118 (\$200)
- UC2a mint entire VF \$153 (\$325)
- UX2 (UPSS S3) mint entire, XF \$71 (\$190)
- UX5 (UPSS S12) mint entire, VF, \$443 (\$1250)

For further information, contact:

Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions  
4 Finance Drive., Suite 100  
Danbury, CT 06810

#### Communication from reader:

Long-time member John Morrison wrote to remind your Editor that his name is John, not Jim as he was misidentified in the last issue in the photo from the APS StampShow in Grand Rapids. Apologies.

Editor's note: Jim pointed out that this auction had "few blockbuster" *Scott*-listed items. Particularly noteworthy about this sale, however, was the significant number of individual lots of specialized material not listed in *Scott*, but included with individual CZSG numbers in the *Check List*. Examples of such items include opened paper folds, misperfs, foldovers, overprint shifts, and wrong fonts. These generated a great deal of interest and bidding competition as these are rarely offered as individual lots by major auction houses, in part because, when a collection includes some of these, they are often overshadowed by the major *Scott*-listed items in the collection. Also the infrequent sales make it hard for auction houses to provide good estimates for them. The results for this sale, where these specialist lots brought realizations in the upper range or above the estimates, while those for *Scott*-listed items generally brought around half catalogue, may help inform future estimates for these scarce items. Following is a summary of some of these items of interest to the specialist.

Jim noted one such item in his list given above, a copy of Scott No. 26 with imperforate bottom margin, which realized \$1888. A mint copy of Scott No. 26 without this variety catalogues \$20 in *Scott*. Other examples of Panama stamps overprinted CANAL ZONE included a block of four of No. 22 imperforate at the top that realized \$1003 and a block of four of the 5c No. 57 imperforate at the bottom that brought \$2360.

Particularly strong was the bidding for wrong font CANAL and ZONE varieties on sharp A overprinted US stamps (Scott Nos. 85-94, and J18-20) which sold at prices at the sale catalogue estimate or well above it. These are seldom offered, and this was the largest grouping of these elusive varieties in the memory of the CZ collectors attending the sale, and generated strong competition among floor bidders, including auction agents attending the sale, as well as bidders on the phone and the internet. Examples that sold in this auction included wrong font CANAL: Scott No. 85 in PB6 \$413 (est. \$200 to 300); No. 86 \$224 (est. \$200 to 300); No. 88 \$708 (est. \$250 to 350); No. 90 in PB4 \$354 (est. \$300 to 400); No. 93 \$266 (est. \$200 to 300); No. 94 in PB4 \$885 (est. \$500 to 750); No. 95 single in block of four \$354 (est. \$300 to 400). Examples with wrong font ZONE were Scott No. 85 \$224 (est. \$150 to 200); No. 86 \$354 (est. \$200 to 300); No. 87 \$413 (est. \$250 to 350); No. 94 \$472 (est. \$300 to 400); No. 95 \$384 (est. \$300 to 400); and No. J19, single in a block of four, \$472 (est. \$150 to 200).

Other oddities included four different examples of No. 56 missing a portion of the frame due to a foldover which realized between \$295 (one example in a block of eight) and \$1298 (2 examples in a block of four) and a misperfed block of 4 of No. 55 which brought \$413.

### 2016 Scott Specialized Catalogue of US Stamps and Covers by Jim Crumpacker

Sometimes the people at Scott make it easy on your intrepid reporter. There were practically no changes year-over-year in the 2016 vs. 2015 *Specialized*. One addition was for No. 118 used on cover. A nice photo of UX5 is new to the catalogue. Shown below is the list of price changes.

Scott No.	2015	2016
131, OG, NH	\$12.50	\$14.00
133, OG, NH	14.00	17.50

You'll strain your eyes looking for more.



# US WWII Civil Censor Privileged Mail Handstamp – Canal Zone Censor Example by Paul F. Ammons

In the previous articles on this civil censor handstamp [1][2], I surmised that, since the Balboa and Cristobal censor stations did not routinely censor CZ-originated mail addressed to, or through (to Canada, Europe, or Pacific), the US [3], privileged mail censor handstamps with CZ-assigned numbers may be possibly limited to:

1. CZ official business mail addressed to other countries (Central America, South America, and Caribbean Islands)
2. Previously uncensored inbound official business terminal mail
3. Previously uncensored official business mail in transit through the CZ not addressed to the US



Fig. 1 Nicaragua 08/23/1944 registered official business mail cover with B&M B1.6 censor handstamp - front

I can now report an example of a Balboa censor using this handstamp on a previously uncensored, incoming, terminal, official business air mail letter.

Figures 1 and 2 are, respectively, scans of the front and back of a registered, official business, air mail cover from the US Military Mission (USMM) Nicaragua to the CZ. The back of the cover provides a great deal of information. The cover was received by the Balboa Air Mail Facility on August 25, 1944. It was received by the Balboa post office that same day. I do not know the significance of the red pencil 'N-930.' It might just be some sort of post office control number used when registered mail was sent to the censor station. [1] The cover was subsequently processed through the Balboa censor station where B&M B1.6 handstamp with number 3458, Fig. 3, was affixed. It should be noted that the cover

was examined, but not opened, at the censor station. The August 28, 1944 Balboa registered back stamp indicates that the cover was removed from the mail stream for at least two days for examination by the Balboa censor station. The cover was received by APO 828 (Corozal) on August 28, 1944, and processed for ultimate delivery.

The personalized handstamp affixed to the front of the cover incorporates elements of both the Official Mail certification and WD Essential Official Air Mail handstamps discussed in a previous article on the handling of Army Official Business mail. [4] Apparently, that personalized certification handstamp was insufficient to qualify as 'previously censored' by the either the Balboa post office or Balboa censor station.

As previously requested, readers are encouraged to provide complete descriptions, photocopies, or scans, both front and back, of WWII mail with B&M B1.6 handstamps.

I can be reached at ammons.paul@gmail.com, P. O. Box 1311, College Station, TX 77841, or via the editor.



Fig. 2 Nicaragua 08/23/1944 registered official business mail cover with B&M B1.6 censor handstamp - back



Fig. 3 B&M censor handstamp B1.6 with Balboa censor number

## References

- [1] Ammons, Paul, "An Interesting Cover," *CZP* 51(1): 10-11 (2015)
- [2] Ammons, Paul and Mayo, L. Dann, "US WWII Civil Censor Privileged Mail Hand Stamp Number Assignment," *CZP* 51(3): 30-31 (2015)
- [3] Ammons, Paul, "World War II US Pre-Printed White Paper Civil Censor Re-sealing Labels, Part 1: the US Office of Censorship and Its District Postal Stations," *CZP* 51(1):4-7 (2015)
- [4] Ammons, Paul; Carter, Russ; Metzler, Harry, "Handling of World War II Army Official Business Mail in the Canal Zone," *CZP* 49(3): 28-30 (2013)

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